

EXHIBIT 1
1/18/07
217

Testimony on House Bill 217
The Department Shall Prepare and Implement a Parental Values Plan

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- Respectfully oppose HB 217
- Understand the intent of HB 217 and thank Rep. Lange for his interest in child abuse and neglect cases
- HB 217 requires that the social worker prepare and implement a parental values plan when a child cannot remain safely in his/her home and must be removed.
- Requires, as soon as possible after the removal, that the social worker interview the custodial parent to determine, among other things:
 - values, wishes and desires of the parent as to the child's education, religion and social training and general upbringing that the custodial parent wants continued or implemented;
 - school information, school contact/friend information, who the child has relationships with at school;
 - religious information/church/minister/who the child has relationships with in the church/synagogue;
 - extracurricular information/who the child has relationships with during activities; and
 - anyone else with whom the child has relationships.
- HB 217 requires that a parental values plan be developed which must include how the social worker intends to work with those identified (child, child's caregivers, teachers, minister/rabbi/priest, peers, friends, and parent) to implement the plan
- Throughout all of this, the social worker must protect the privacy interests of the child and parent.
- Oppose HB 217 for two reasons:
 - 1) Potential/inherent conflicts; and
 - 2) Lack of system capacity

- **Potential Conflicts:**

- 1) Noncustodial parent
 - 2) Kin care
 - 3) Guardian ad litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate
 - 4) General upbringing
 - 5) Child's constitutional rights
 - 6) Implication of the word "control"
 - Education
 - Medical care/treatment
 - Identified contacts/schools/places of worship
- HB 217 does not address how conflicts will be resolved—assume they will be resolved by the court.

- **System Capacity:**

- 1) Increased burden on foster parents
- 2) Increased workload on Child and Family Services
 - Federal Child and Family Services Review (2002; 2008)
 - On-going quality assurance system
 - a) Proximity of foster care placement (concerted effort): 94.6%
 - b) Child visitation with parents and siblings (concerted effort): 63.9%
 - c) Preserving connections (concerted effort): 82.9%
- 3) Concerted effort v. required expectation

Please vote "do not pass" on HB 217